

THE TIMES-DISPATCH

GENERAL LOGICAL COLUMN

BROWN FAMILY.

OF VIRGINIA



Brown Family, of Virginia.

In the Conway article of the 10th, it will be seen that Col. Edwin Conway, of the third generation, born 1801; died October 2, 1873, married first Ann Ball, 1704; second Ann Hack. He made his will 1762. His daughter Mary Conway by his first wife married Thomas Gaskins of the fourth generation of that family. They had Sarah Ann Gaskins and others. She married Dr. Joseph McAdam, of Northumberland county, Va., 1712.

Their daughter, Janet McAdam, married October 20, 1771, William Brown, of Scotland, who resided in Northumberland county, and practiced law in the Northern Neck, Va., during the Colonial period. He was the first of the family to emigrate to Virginia, and we propose here to give something of the family as directly touching that of Washington.

The family name was first Le Brun, as we find Richard Le Brun, keeper of the king's peace in Cumberland (then a portion of Scotland), who was one of the principal noblemen who headed the conspiracy of the demand of the Charters in the year 1323.

Then we find the name Brown in 1480, when William Brown, of Colston flourished, and then on downwards until we come to George Brown, of Colston, 1611, whose son, Patrick, was the first to be raised to the English peerage, 1653, for gallant services. He had a son, Sir George Brown, who succeeded him, and who married Lady Elizabeth McKenzie, and she dying without male issue, the title and estates were divided, the title to the Thorne family and the estates to an heiress who married George Brown, of Eastfield, from whom are descended all the late members of the family.

The father of William Brown, the emigrant, who married Janet McAdam, and his wife Margaret, of Scotland, and we have every reason to believe they were direct descendants of Baron George Brown, and are entitled to his arms, which are given herewith.

William Brown and Edwin Conway, of the fifth generation, married sisters, both daughters of Dr. Joseph McAdam, and Sarah Ann Gaskins, daughter of Thomas Gaskins, and his wife Mary Conway, daughter of Col. Edwin Conway and his wife Ann Ball, the half sister of the mother of Washington; Ann Ball being the daughter of Col. Joseph Ball (and Elizabeth Romney his wife), who was

born 1605, 1608 and 1702.

The father of Col. Joseph Ball was Col. William Ball, born 1615 in London, and died at Mollenback, Lancaster county, Va., 1680. Married 1638 Hannah Othello. Their children were—Richard, died an infant; William, born 1641, died 1684; Joseph, born 1640, died 1711; Isaac, born 1640, married 1670, Captain David Fox. Col. Joseph Ball lived and died at "Epping Forest," Lancaster county, Va. His wife, Elizabeth Romney, was the daughter of William Romney, of London. The second wife of Col. Ball was Mary Johnson, widow of Lancaster county, Va.; their children were by first marriage:

First, Hannah, who married Raleigh Travers.

Second, Elizabeth, who married Rev. John Gwynne.

Third, Esther, who married Raleigh Chinn.

Fourth, Anne, who married Col. Edwin Conway.

Fifth, Joseph, who married Frances Haverford.

By second marriage:

Sixth, Mary, born 1707-8, died 1789, aged 82. She married March 6, 1730-31, Augustine Washington.

We gather the above facts from the April number of 1903 of the William and Mary Historical Magazine, and from other data procured by Dr. Lyon G. Tyler, of Williamsburg, which has been sent us by a member of the family.

We propose to touch again on the Gaskins and Pinkney families as connected particularly with the Brown and Conways, whom we here trace direct to the English peerage.

Of the present descendants of the Brown family, none stand more prominent than Major Thos. L. Brown, of Charleston, W. Va., who was born in London county, Va. He graduated in law at University of Virginia, 1818, and was admitted to the bar 1822. Entered the Confederate service as private in Kanawha Riflemen, and was soon after promoted to major in the 11th Virginia regiment, Wise Legion. He was severely wounded at the battle of Cloyd's Mountain. After the war Major Brown took his old place as president of the Navigation Company, of Charleston, W. Va., which he still holds.

Just after the war he practiced law for awhile in New York city. He is now largely identified in the Coal River development of the State, which of late has become so prosperous.

Also to be mentioned Dr. William LeRoy Brown, of Alabama, who was also born in London county, Va., 1812; graduated at the University of Virginia, 1832; M. D. 1835; St. John's College, Md., L.L.D., 1874; and University of Georgia, 1892. He married Miss Salter-J. Fleming, of Hanover county, Va., 1838, was professor in College of Medicine, 1832-41; professor of the University of Georgia, 1841-56; entered Confederate army as lieutenant of artillery, 1861, afterwards as Lieutenant Colonel of Ordnance Department. After the war he was president of the Georgia Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1872-82; Prof. in Agricultural University, 1882-83; president of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama, 1882, and professor of mathematics in the University of Texas, 1884, since which time he has been president of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala.

The arms we give are created for Baron George Brown, 1658, being as follows: Arms—Gu, three fleurs-de-lis, or. Crest—A lion rampant, holding in the dexter paw, a fleur-de-lis; or. Supporters—On each side a lion, argent, guardant, having a paw charged as in the crest. Motto—"Floruit Magistra"—Let Majesty flourish. Seats—Anciently, Colston, Haddingtonshire; and Thorneville Castle, Brunswickschire. Present seat—Colston Park, Leicestershire, Dumfriesshire, North Britain. E. M. C.

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